

## **In-place Preservation of File System Objects During a Disk Clone Operation**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A cloning manager preserves in-place file system objects 5 (103) during a clone operation. The cloning manager (101) determines boundaries (105) of a file system (107) to be created by the clone operation, and identifies at least one protected area (113) within the boundaries (105), reserved for the file system (107). The cloning manager (101) also identifies at 10 least one in-place file system object (103) within or overlapping the boundaries (105) to be preserved during the clone operation. The cloning manager (101) ensures that each object (103) to be preserved is not located in a protected area (113), shifting (203) the objects (103) as necessary. The 15 cloning manager (101) creates the file system (107) during the clone operation only in locations that do not contain objects (103) to be preserved.